

18 March 2021

COVID-19 HOME TESTING FOR DC CHELTENHAM SCHOOLS

Dean Close Health Centre
Shelburne Road
Cheltenham
Gloucestershire
GL51 6HE

Dear pupils, parents, carers, and colleagues,

Thanks to a massive effort across the entire Dean Close community, we are delighted that our mass testing programme was a success. We processed nearly two thousand tests over the course of 10 days with no positive results. We are reassured that the lockdown was effective and we can continue to focus on providing the safest possible space for pupils and staff.

We are now transitioning all pupils and staff to testing themselves, at home, twice a week. The day and time is flexible according to your schedule; the tests should be done 3-5 days apart (e.g. a Monday and Thursday or Tuesday and Friday).

Pupils of Year 7 and above will be provided self-testing kits by the school to test at home; parents and members of their households may also test themselves with self-test kits obtained at their local community testing centre. You can find the hours and location of your local distributor here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff#how-to-get-a-rapid-lateral-flow-test>

According to the latest Department for Education guidance, pupils and staff are expected to test themselves **twice a week** over the Easter break. We are planning to send pupils home with sufficient tests to do this. They should be sure to test themselves the day before, or the morning of, Tuesday 20th April when they return to school.

Pupils will receive a leaflet on how to do their tests and report the results to Public Health England. For easy reference, here is the link to report the results: www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result. We have also developed some slides and a video to help guide you in the testing and results registration process.

Negative results do not need to be reported to the school. If the result is positive, follow the instructions sent to you by NHS Test and Trace. **You must also let the school know at covid@deanclose.org.uk.**

FAQs

- If you or your child have coronavirus symptoms, **do not** come to school. Please book a PCR test at one of the [NHS testing sites](#). Contact us if you can't access a test.
 - Your household must immediately self-isolate.
 - New or worsening continuous cough
 - Fever or chills
 - Loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste (anosmia)
- If any pupil has a positive test they should isolate in their home/living space to complete a 10-day isolation period (along with other members of the household).
 - The 10-day isolation starts from the day symptoms start. If they have a positive test and develop symptoms later, the 10 days starts again from the time of symptoms starting.

- If you are isolating with your household and someone else develops symptoms or has a positive test, the 10 days starts again. The person who has had the positive test does not need to keep isolating after their 10 days has finished.
- Some pupils will require special accommodation for the lateral flow testing, such as a quiet private space, or swabbing only the tonsils or only the nostrils – this is fine.

We are heartened by the degree of enthusiasm and participation amongst our pupils and families as we navigate the PHE guidance, and we thank you for your continued support.

Yours very sincerely,



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Health Centre Manager

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